

surrounded by dark rings; no dark line between eyes and ears. Backs of hands and feet greyish brown; toes dark brown. Underside of body dark slaty grey, washed over with greyish white. Hairs of belly dark slate-coloured, with greyish-white tips. Tail rather lighter in colour than back; lower surface greyer, especially near the base.

Skull very broad across middle of zygomatic region. Auditory bullæ comparatively small. Cranial region broad. Nasals rather short, and broad anteriorly.

Dimensions of the type (measured in the flesh):—

Head and body 94 mm.; tail 68; hind foot 16·5; ear 13.

Skull: greatest length 27; condylo-basal length 25; basal length 23; condylo-basilar length 23; basilar length 21; zygomatic breadth 16; breadth of brain-case behind squamosal region 13; greatest length of nasals 10·5; palatal length 10·7; palatilar length 9; width of palate between last molars 3·8; length of palatal foramina 3; length of upper molar series 3·4.

*Hab.* West slope of Mount Kenya, British East Africa. Altitude 11,000 feet.

*Type.* Adult male. B.M. no. 0. 2. 1. 17. Original number 19. Collected on August 22nd, 1899, by Mr. H. J. Mackinder.

The darker-coloured fur and unusual breadth of the skull, especially as regards the zygomatic region, necessitate this Kenya *Graphiurus* being considered quite distinct from the Ruwenzori species.

XI.—*Preliminary Description of a new Genus of Epomophorine Bats.* By KNUD ANDERSEN.

PLEROTES\*, gen. nov.

Type, *Plerotes anchietæ* = *Epomophorus anchietæ*, Seabra, J. Sci. Lisboa, (2) vi. p. 116 (1900), from Galanga, Benguela.

*Differential characters.*—Allied to *Epomops*, with the post-dental palate flattened as in *Megachiroptera* generally, not

\* Πληρωτής, filling out (e. g. a gap, an interspace), in allusion to the fact that in the number of postcanine teeth ( $\frac{4}{5}$ ) *Plerotes* is intermediate between the Rousettine group of genera ( $\frac{5}{5}$ ) and the hitherto known genera of the *Epomophorine* group ( $\frac{3}{5}$ ).

deeply hollowed out posteriorly as in *Epomophorus*, but peculiar in the following respects:—

(1) Cheek-teeth  $\frac{4}{6}$ :  $p^1$  and  $m_3$  present. In all other Epomophorine genera cheek-teeth  $\frac{3}{5}$ :  $p^1$  and  $m_3$  absent.

(2) Dentition on the whole exceedingly weak;  $p^3$ - $m^1$  and  $p_3$ - $m_2$  unusually narrow, only half, or less than half, as broad as long (anterior-posteriorly). Dentition of *Epomops* scarcely weaker than usual in the Epomophorine group; breadth of cheek-teeth two-thirds their length.

(3)  $p^4$ ,  $m^1$ ,  $p_4$ ,  $m_1$ , and  $m_2$  very low, almost perfectly flattened, with no trace of the usual cusp-like elevations of the outer and inner ridges, upper teeth with a slight, lower teeth with a scarcely detectable remnant of the median longitudinal groove. Cheek-teeth of *Epomops* unmodified Epomophorine, with well-developed lateral ridges and median groove.

(4) Outer and inner ridge of  $p^3$  and  $p_3$  so completely fused as to leave scarcely any trace of a median groove. *Epomops*: outer and inner ridge of  $p^3$  and  $p_3$  never so completely fused as to obliterate the median groove.

(5) Upper incisors extremely small, barely piercing gum, crown blunt; lower incisors simple, obtuse. *Epomops*: upper incisors not reduced, crowns acutely pointed; lower incisors distinctly bilobed.

(6) Palate unusually broad, breadth across outer surfaces of crowns of  $m^1$ - $m^1$  more than total length of maxillary tooth-row ( $c$ - $m^1$ ). Palate of *Epomops* broader than in *Rousettus*, but not broadened to the same degree as in *Pterotes*, breadth across outer surfaces of crowns of  $m^1$ - $m^1$  less than total length of maxillary tooth-row.

(7) Brain-case considerably deflected against facial axis. In all other Epomophorine genera only very slightly deflected.

(8) Soft palate crossed by eight thin, serrate, almost equidistant ridges forming regular curves from side to side (figured by Seabra, J. Sci. Lisboa, (2) v. pl. i. fig. 3, 1898). Three anterior (interdental) palate-ridges of *Epomops* thick and prominent, conspicuously contrasting with thin and serrate postdental ridges.

(9) Interfemoral extremely narrow laterally, breadth at middle of tibia scarcely more than that of tibia bone; calcar absent (or rudimentary; the only known specimen is mounted). Interfemoral of all other Epomophorine genera unmodified, breadth at middle of tibia four to five times that of tibia bone; calcar well developed.

(10) Metacarpal of second digit much less (in *Epomops* much more) than half the length of the forearm; fourth (in *Epomops* third) metacarpal longest; second phalanx of third

digit subequal to (in *Epomops* much shorter than) metacarpal of same digit.

(11) Vertical fasciæ of mesopatagium few (about 7-8) and broadly spaced. In *Epomops* unusually numerous (36-47) and crowded.

General size of single species known very small, as *Micropteropus pusillus*: forearm about 50-60 mm. Size of known species of *Epomops* much larger: forearm 82-100.5 mm.

Small whitish hair-tufts at anterior and posterior base of ears, as in all Epomophorine genera.

For the loan of the type of this highly interesting fruit-bat I am indebted to Sr. A. F. de Seabra, Museu Bocage, Lisbon. The specimen is a fully adult female, teeth practically unworn.

## XII.—On some Species of the Genus *Epomops* \*.

By KNUD ANDERSEN.

### I. *Epomops franqueti* and *comptus*.

*Epomophorus franqueti*, Toms, P. Z. S. 1860, p. 54, pl. lxxv.—Type locality, Gaboon. Type, in the Paris Mu-

\* *Epomops*, originally founded by Gray (1866), was by Dobson (1878) not distinguished from *Epomophorus*; by Matschie (1899) it was allowed to stand as a "subgenus" of *Epomophorus*, but by Miller (1907) again united with *Epomophorus*, probably owing to its general resemblance to the latter genus in dentition and external aspect. I find myself compelled to disagree with Miller. Both *Epomops* and *Epomophorus* subsist on soft fruits, but in having adapted themselves to this diet they have, in certain respects, followed essentially different lines of development. In *Epomops* the rostrum and palate are broadened, in *Epomophorus*, on the contrary, unusually narrow; in *Epomops* the postdental palate has preserved the common "Rousettine" (flattened) shape, in *Epomophorus* it is deeply hollowed out posteriorly; in *Epomops* the three anterior interdental palate-ridges are thick and prominent, conspicuously contrasting with the thin and serrate postdental set of ridges, in *Epomophorus* the whole set of ridges are peculiarly modified, without contrast between the interdental and postdental ridges; also the hyoid bones and pharyngeal sacs are different in the two genera. *Epomops* is in fact much more closely related to *Hypsignathus* and *Pterotes* than it is to *Epomophorus*. If we leave *Epomops* and the short-nosed (in the skull almost *Cynopterus*-like) *Micropteropus* in *Epomophorus*, then *Epomophorus* becomes decidedly the most heterogeneous genus of fruit-bats; if we separate *Epomops* and *Micropteropus*, then *Epomophorus* stands as a perfectly homogeneous group, sharply defined against all other genera of the Epomophorine section, and in the shape of the postdental palate contrasting even with all other genera of Megachiroptera.